



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
DESIGN**

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NAED Grand Opening in Spotsylvania County Shines Spotlight on Environmental Design

Spotsylvania, Va. (June 17, 2013) – The National Academy of Environmental Design (NAED) will open its first permanent national headquarters office at 8110 River Stone Drive in the River Run Business Park of Spotsylvania County’s Ni Village on Tuesday, June 18, during a Grand Opening ceremony and press conference from 3:30-4:30 pm.

An organization dedicated to bringing together educators, professionals and civic leaders around our country’s most pressing environmental concerns, the NAED becomes the first tenant and anchor of the new Center for Sustainability and Green Technologies. The Center represents a collaborative initiative among the NAED, Luck Development Partners, Spotsylvania County and the University of Mary Washington, among other university partners.

“The NAED plans to develop a network of educators, researchers and practitioners in bio-regions around the U.S. with specific environmental design challenges,” said Linda Sorrento, executive director of the National Academy of Environmental Design. “The NAED represents a coalition of organizations that embrace a holistic vision around the growth and health of the built and natural environments, and that aim to ensure safe, habitable and healthy places for future generations. We wanted our first permanent research center to be located in a smart, mixed-use community like Ni Village, which was designed using sustainable building and landscape principles.”

Some highlights of the Opening Ceremony will include:

- Unveiling of the NAED office to the community
- Remarks by community leaders from Spotsylvania County, the Chamber of Commerce and the [University of Mary Washington](#)
- Remarks by the executive director of the NAED and the CEO of Luck Companies
- Display of projects in Sustainable Design submitted by students from Virginia Tech, a supporter of the NAED

- Display of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) projects from Spotsylvania County K-12 students
- Special announcements about significant corporate pledges and upcoming initiatives to engage the region's professionals in business, education, research, healthcare and the environment
- Invitation to enjoy the 1.75-mile Salamander Loop on the Ni River Trail, developed by the Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative, at the conclusion of the event

"Research-based organizations like the [National Academy of Environmental Design](#) give Virginia a new economic development tool and align with my Administration's focus on STEM-related initiatives," said Governor McDonnell. "I am delighted that the NAED chose to launch its operations in the Commonwealth and look forward to the results of its important work."

"The County, the NAED, [Luck Development Partners](#), the University of Mary Washington and others have partnered to make this Grand Opening possible," remarked Emmitt B. Marshall, supervisor for the Berkeley District in Spotsylvania County. "I look forward to the NAED's part in helping Luck Development Partners and others develop and launch the proposed Center for Sustainability and Green Technologies, which promises to help create new jobs, tax revenue, educational programs, tourism conferences, public and private investment and improved quality of life which will no doubt come to Spotsylvania County as a result."

"Virginia's depth in research-based capabilities is exceptional, and the addition of the National Academy of Environmental Design gives us one more tool to solve problems facing business today," said Liz Povar, vice president of business expansion for the [Virginia Economic Development Partnership](#). "Through its extensive network of higher education and business partners, such as Luck Development Partners and the University of Mary Washington, the NAED leverages a broad array of international intellect to help companies and communities improve outcomes from sustainability strategies."

"The NAED's office opening is a significant milestone for the formation of the Center for Sustainability and Green Technologies, which will create a unique 'think-and-do' tank with far-reaching impact on Ni Village, the entire Spotsylvania County region and beyond," said Eileen Dahlstedt, general manager of Luck Development Partners. "This living laboratory will attract the best and brightest thought-leaders to offer research outcomes and education in environmental design and sustainability. Luck Companies and Luck Development Partners are honored to be a part of this important initiative that will transform societies and community living."

"The opening of the NAED's headquarters in Ni Village signals that Spotsylvania County is poised to become a premier destination for an integrated approach to the research, discipline and practice of sustainability and environmental design," concluded Sorrento. "It's so exciting to know that our region will be providing creative leadership on a global level about how to meet the challenges and opportunities of a sustainable future."

Photo: Linda Sorrento, Executive Director, National Academy of Environmental Design



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About the National Academy of Environmental Design (NAED):

Founded in 2008 by more than 20 nonprofit organizations, the National Academy of Environmental Design (NAED) represents a national network reaching more than 500,000 professionals in diverse fields. People involved in NAED activities come from both industry and academia and include some of the world's most preeminent environmental design leaders. The NAED coalition convenes these national leaders, researchers and experts around issues such as climate change, resource depletion, epidemic obesity and energy security. Just as the existing National Academies arose during times of extreme need for the nation, such as the Civil War and the Space Race, the NAED emerges around some of the greatest environmental challenges in our nation's history. To learn more, visit www.naedonline.org.

About Luck Development Partners (LDP):

An affiliate of Luck Companies, **Luck Development Partners, LLC** resolves to integrate and highlight natural, historical and environmental elements into the design of its real estate projects. The LDP team upholds both an ethical standard of environmental sustainability and aspirations of enhancing the lives of those in our communities. For more information on Luck Development Partners, visit www.lucklegacy.com or www.nivillage.com.